

ENGARDE

March 02, V.38, 2

174th Fighter Wing

New York Air National Guard, Syracuse

Security Forces Support Operation Enduring Freedom



Gen Maguire's Letter

AF Committed To AEF Rotation



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The EnGarde is a funded Air Force newspaper and is an authorized publication for members of the US military services. Contents of the EnGarde are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or the Air National Guard. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 174th Fighter Wing

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AF Committed To
AEF Rotation

174th Fighter Wing Vision and Mission Statements



Vision Statement

Our Vision is a world class fighter wing comprised of diverse individuals empowered to meet all challengers, and win. We accept nothing less.

Mission Statement

Provide combat ready personnel, aircraft, and equipment prepared for world wide deployment. To deter or attack and destroy enemy surface and airborne forces in support of joint operations; and to support civil authorities at the direction of the governor.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

One of the drawbacks to writing this article every month is that it has to be submitted to the editor and printer well in advance of the drill that it is published for. As a result, sometimes the information may be stale or even incorrect if overcome by events in the time between my writing and your reading. With that disclaimer in place, I would like to give you an update on the 174th's current participation in Operation Noble Eagle (ONE)/ Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and AEF deployments.

Hopefully, by now we have been relieved from our current tasking of the continuous Combat Air Patrol over NY City, and our flying is returning to a more normal daytime schedule. With less than a month to go until our aviation package deployment to Tyndall AFB, FL, our focus is on preparing our aircraft and training our people to ensure 100% success with our planned missile shots.

While ONE winds down for now, the 174th continues to receive additional tasking in support of OEF, covering skill areas from across the entire base, and deploying to locations around the world. The 152nd AOG has also deployed its members overseas in support of ongoing combat operations. In the meantime we are all looking forward to the return of our deployed Security Forces Squadron members, which we hope won't be too far off. The entire 174th should be very proud of these troops; they've made a great name for the unit with their active duty counterparts and subordinates, and I have personally received numerous reports from their deployed commanders that can't say enough good things. "Syracuse standard".

At the same time we are sending people to OEF we are

being tasked to support AEF 1 and 2 deployments with numerous combat support positions that are also deploying around the world. On top of it all we continue to deploy for training with a recent 274th ASOS trip to Gila Bend, AZ, an up coming MDS deployment to Alpena, MI, and numerous others. I will make a bold claim here and say that we are more engaged with the current world situation and deployed more now than the wing was in 1991 with Operation Desert Storm. By the time this level of activity winds down we will have deployed more people for more days to more places doing many more things than we did a decade ago. The challenge I see is to do these things intelligently, so as to get the most support with the minimum amount of disruption to our people. A lot of our ability to do that will depend on everyone volunteering to do the maximum that they can, so as not to unfairly burden just a few.

These times demand more of the Guard than has been asked for in decades. At the same time I am asking more of you than business as usual; I am asking for your re-dedication to this wing and its mission, and I am asking you to make sacrifices on behalf of your country. I am pleased and proud of the efforts you have made so far, but I also ask you to hang in there for the long run. In the immortal words of Yogi Berra, "It ain't over 'til it's over".



Col. Robert Knauff
174th FW,
Commander

Mentoring the Road to the Future

by Chief Master Sgt. Ted Mosley, 174 FW, Command Chief Master Sgt.

The following article is part two from the Jan./Feb. 2002 issue



As I stated last month, mentoring is a living program that will keep the future of this organization alive and strong. We will constantly review the progress and add or subtract ideas that will change because of culture, age, mission, or any of the many factors that influence our lives.

The following are some ideas for the formal part of the mentoring program and immediate steps to be taken

? Establish new comers briefing that is conducted at the minimum of every six months for all personnel that are new to the organization.

? Insure that the in brief is concise and not burdened with too much info that will be lost before people leave the room.

? The in brief would be facilitated by no more than two or three key base personnel with possible comments from the Wing Commander.

? Produce a living hard copy of the briefing and distribute it to the work-center supervisors so they can establish their own mentoring/training program.

? Produce a questionnaire that is brief and concise, that can be administered by the F Sergeants or their delegates at a predetermined time frame.

? Have someone like the Cultural Awareness Team, (CAT) review the results and chart the progress of the program and report input to the program managers.

The following are ideas that are just as important, but less formal and regimented:

? Seasoned members of this unit need to include junior members into their culture. i.e. take them to a meeting on occasion so they can see and hear how some decision processes are made that impact them directly or others in the unit.

? Encourage new members to become part of base functions or sports activities such as section gatherings, running or bowling events.

? When having lunch at the dining facility, sit with people you don't know and find out how their day is going.

? Find out what the new members job (AFSC) is and relate to them what part of the overall picture they fit in to make the unit's mission happen.

? Try never to be too busy to greet someone with a smile as they approach.



Command Chief
Master Sgt. Mosley



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) R. Paul Mathis, 174th FW



Is your Faith Growing?

In the 11th Chapter of the book of Hebrews, Paul gives us some very positive insight to exemplary faith as he speaks about Abraham's journey to an unknown land. Here the Lord spoke to him, telling him that his descendants one-day will be as numerous as stars in the sky, and when Sarah, in spite of being past the childbearing age, would be able to conceive a child. It would be a son and his name would be Isaac. The Lord blessed Sarah because of her trusted faith in God. Every person at any age, I am sure has their moments of enduring growth in faith.

A friend of mine, who is 82 years of age, was a paratrooper in WWII. He told me a story of a fugitive in Germany that

left a beautiful testimony of faith. This fugitive wrote on a cellar wall, "I believe in the sun when it does not shine, I believe in love when I do not feel it, and I believe in God even when he is silent".

Thinking of the fugitive's faith, Abraham's faith and Sarah's faith invited me to speak to God about my faith. What do I say?

I am sure for many of us September 11, 2001 (9-11) has altered our lives forever. Hopefully our faith has become deeper and it is my hope that it will continue to grow with time.



Chaplain Mathis

STATE OF NEW YORK DIVISION OF MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS

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GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR
COMMANDER IN CHIEF

To All Members of the NYANG Family:
December 31, 2001

THOMAS P. MAGUIRE, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



The past year has been one filled with monumental challenges for you, your families and employers. From our response to the crisis following September II, to our unprecedented federal activations, the men and women of the NYANG have been trained, prepared and ready to answer their state's and nation's call. On behalf of the Governor and those of us at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, and Headquarters NYANG, I thank you for what you have done and what you have been ready to do.

As President Bush and Governor Pataki have assured us, we must be prepared to continue our vigilance. As Guardsmen, our challenges are not over. In most cases they are only beginning. In the year ahead, we will be asked to continue our traditional federal missions and Expeditionary Air Force (EAF) support and continue supporting those missions related to homeland defense and the war on terrorism. Additionally, we will be asked to maintain the highest level of readiness possible, enabling us to respond to any new threats as they develop.

With the coming of the New Year, I issue several very special pleas: Be safe. Your health and well being are the foundation upon which our success is built. Take care of each other. We are a team and no team can function unless its members are united in their concern for each other. Finally, be vigilant. Not since the early days of WWII has America been tested in such a diabolical fashion and, never before, on our home soil.

The will of the American people is unbreakable. I saw that in the faces of those of you in New York City as well as on the faces of those of you preparing to deploy to locations around the country and globe these past several months. Together this country will weather this or any storm. I am proud of your role in the fight, proud of you as people and, like you, proud in this opportunity to serve this great land of ours.

My wife, Debbie, and I wish you safe journeys and all the blessings of the New Year. It is an honor to serve as your Adjutant General.

THOMAS P. MAGUIRE, JR.
Major General, NYANG
The Adjutant General

Charity Adams Earley, Black Pioneer in WACS, Dies at 83

By Richard Goldstein

Charity Adams Earley, the commander of the only all-black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II, died on Jan. 13 in Dayton, Ohio, long her hometown. She was 83.

At a time when a segregated military provided few opportunities for blacks, Charity Adams was one of only two to hold a wartime rank in the WACS as high as major. A subsequent promotion made her a lieutenant colonel briefly before she left military service in 1946.

The Army first permitted black members of the WACS to serve overseas in the winter of 1945, when it created the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-black unit, and assigned some 850 African-American women to it. The unit, based in Birmingham, England, and later in Rouen, France, and Paris, routed mail - much of it backed up at English warehouses in the chaos that followed the Battle of the Bulge - to millions of members of the armed forces in Europe.

The assignment of Major Adams as the battalion commander seemed a natural choice. Having grown up in Columbia, S.C. - her father a minister in the A.M.E. Church, her mother a teacher - she graduated from Wilberforce University in Ohio and was studying for a master's degree at Ohio State when she joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the forerunner of the WACS, in 1942. She was among 39 black women in the corps's first training class, at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and became one of its first black officers. She then held administrative and command positions at Fort Des Moines for two and a half years.

From her first day in the corps, though, she had to bear the humiliations of a segregated military. Though she had forged a quick camaraderie with white officer candidates who had ridden with her by train to Fort Des Moines, the bond did not survive once they reached their destination.

"The Army soon shattered whatever closeness we had felt," she recalled in her memoir, "One Woman's Army" (Texas A&M Press, 1989). "When we left the mess hall we were marched two-by-two's to the reception center. A young, red-haired second lieutenant said, 'Will all the colored girls move over on this side.' He pointed to an isolated group of seats.

"There was a moment of stunned silence, for even in the United States of the 40's it did not occur to us that this could happen. The integration of our trip did not prepare us for this. What made things worse was that

even after the 'colored girls' had been pushed to the side, all the rest of the women were called by name to join a group to be led to their quarters. Why could not the 'colored girls' be called by name to go to their quarters rather than be isolated by race?"

The members of the 6888th postal unit were the first black women many Britons in Birmingham had ever seen, and they shattered stereotypes.

"These WACS are very different from the colored women portrayed on the films, where they are usually either domestics or the outspoken old-retainer type or sloe-eyed sirens given to gaudiness of costume and eccentricity in dress," The Birmingham Sunday Mercury said. "The WACS have dignity and proper reserve."

Both the Army and the Red Cross tested that dignity.

Major Adams recalled in her memoir that when a general inspecting her battalion was told that not all the women would be present, since some were working and others sleeping after a night shift, he responded, "I'm going to send a white first lieutenant down here to show you how to run this unit."

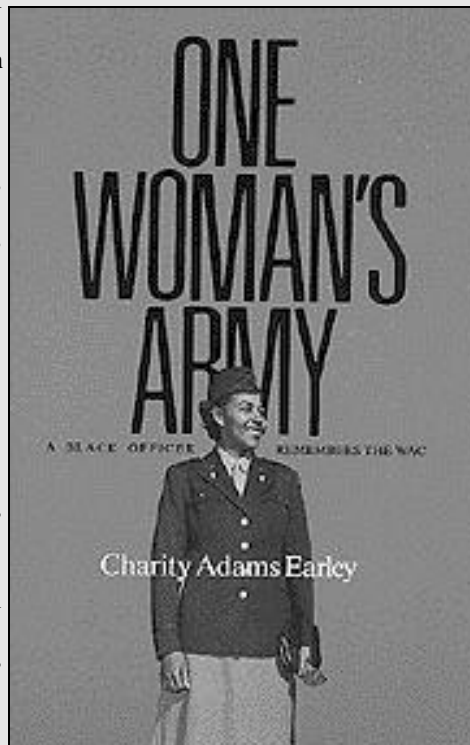
Major Adams replied, "Over my dead body, sir." The general threatened to court-martial Major Adams for that remark, and she, in turn, prepared to file charges against him for disobeying a directive from Allied headquarters to refrain from language stressing racial segregation. The matter was dropped by both sides, and the general later told Major Adams he had come to respect her.

While in England, Major Adams refused equipment from the Red Cross for a segregated recreational center - the battalion had been permitted use of the same recreational area used by whites - and persuaded members of the unit not to stay at a segregated Red Cross hotel in London while on leave.

After her military service, she received a master's degree in vocational psychology from Ohio State, and then became a dean at Tennessee A&I College and Georgia State College. The Smithsonian Institution has included her in its listing of the historically most important black women.

In 1996, Mrs. Earley was honored at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum for her wartime service. Before leaving Dayton for the ceremony in Washington, she said: "When I talk to

students, they say, 'how did it feel to know you were making history?' But you don't know you're making history when it's happening. I just wanted to do my job."



174th Security Forces Excel In “Enduring Freedom” Activation

By Master Sgt. Saverio Rotuno and Staff Sgt. Patrick Kainane

At the beginning of our activation, we had a lot of questions, yet too few answers. Curious to find out how we would fit into the big picture, we could only sit and guess as to what was in store for us. Then the call came. Twenty-six troops from the 174th Security Forces Squadron were called at home on October 14th and told that we were deploying overseas and that we would not be around for the holidays.

We quietly departed Syracuse on the morning of 17 October 2001 en route to a classified location in the Middle East, via Norfolk, Virginia. We weren't sure if our deployed location would change while we traveled and we were anxious to get there and get to work. We departed Norfolk on 23 October, after waiting for a plane for 6 days, and arrived at our classified location on 25 October. Our new commander and his support staff greeted us and informed us that we had arrived at what would be our new home for at least the next 90 days. We were also informed that we were to be the last Security Forces Squadron to arrive at our location.

We had been assigned to the 319th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, which falls under the 319th Air Expeditionary Group. Our two squads were assigned to tents right next to each other on the tent city compound. We made quick work of

erecting a front porch out of unused lumber/crates and draped camouflage netting over it. Word spread quickly through camp that a New York Air Guard unit had arrived. We had a lot of people stop by just to talk and show their support for all that our state had endured.

In an effort to enhance security, we spent our first two full days in country building new defensive fighting positions and making modifications/repairs to several existing ones. The days were long and especially hot as the temperatures swelled to over 100 degrees. The afternoon of our second day, we received an orientation tour of the base and learned where our posts would be the following day when we went to work. Due to manning constraints, we had to split the twenty-six of us in half, giving 13 peo-

ple to day shift and 13 to the midnight shift. We would all be working 12-hour shifts in a "three-day-on and one-day-off" rotation cycle.

Our posting is quite a diversified endeavor. We are responsible for flight line security for KC-135 Stratotankers. We do this with a fire team and several two man patrols all in pickup trucks and Humvees patrolling the areas around where the planes are parked. We are also responsible for the security of Tent City. This is accomplished by manning several listening and observation posts (LP/OP's) on the outer perimeter of the compound along with a mobile fire team and two one man patrols.

At the entrance to the host nation base, there are several checkpoints manned by host nation security forces. At the last checkpoint, prior to entering the base, a search area was established.

Through the use of Military Working Dogs and American security forces personnel searching through vehicles, we attempt to thwart anyone from bringing explosives into the base by hand or vehicle. This is by far the most time consuming and attention-to-detail kind of job that we have over here. Our post rotations are very good and we seldom do the same job two days in a row.

Our integration with the active duty was a little bit rocky at first as

we were called, "weekend warriors" and other such monikers. However our fellow airmen soon came to warm up to us, and they have since stated on countless occasions that they would love for us to be *their* supervisors. We have been told time and again by the leadership that they are glad that we came here. We brought a good group that is both mature and knowledgeable of the tasks at hand. We have learned that deployments like this can soon become the way of the Air Force with a mixture of active duty with guard/reserve. In the wake of September 11th, the 174th Fighter Wing has had the opportunity to provide support for Operation Noble Eagle and through us, Operation Enduring Freedom. We're proud of the work that we're doing over here and we know that we've left a positive impression on those assigned here with us.



L to R: SSgt. Scott Meade, SSgt. Pat Kinane, SSgt. Jim Troch, SrA. Jim Shulskey, SSgt. Tim Kildea, TSgt. Bill Schroeder, SSgt. Gary Fugitt.



Technical Sgt. Bill Schroeder mans an M60 machine gun mounted on his Humvee.



Rich Tarson receives his promotion to Senior Airman.



Staff Sgt. Scott Meade wants to know who ordered these flowery bedspreads.



Technical Sgt. Scot Nappa demonstrates the close living quarters of tent city.



L to R: Senior Airmen Ron Ratwood, Chris Vandemortel, and Staff Sgt. Chuck Wolff pose with their weapons in front of their humvee.



L to R: Staff Sgt. Tim Kildea and Technical Sgt. Scot Nappa patrol the base on ATV's.

Operation Noble Eagle, The New Reality

By Lt. Col. Kevin Bradley, 174th FW, Operations Group Commander.



Lt. Col. Kevin Bradley

While our national and military leaders are reviewing what U.S. homeland defensive measures are going to look like for the remainder of 2002, our **visible** part in the mission is winding down. Since the attacks of last fall, many unimaginable changes have occurred in our "Citizen Solider" role. Within our own Hancock Field organization, we have witnessed some of these changes first hand; mobilization, execution of new missions and fighter aircraft flying Combat

Air Patrol (CAP) within our own borders. Some of these changes will most likely be enduring; but others will continue to evolve as we face the shifting threat. Regrettably, we now realize these threats can originate inside the North American continent. Obviously this new reality has had a direct impact on our organization.

The high operations tempo of our people, wear and tear on the aircraft and equipment will continue. Although our national leadership is very aware of these problems, the security of our nation and people will take precedent. That is the essence of the New Reality, the role and responsibility of our mission will continue to change as we face this new threat. As with all change, uncertainty brings a level of unrest, but imbedded in that change

lays opportunity. The country has once again found that our Militia system is an invaluable part of our security. The Guard has proven that we are an agile, fast adapting, and a ready support/force provider that was already here, just a little less visible. Our efforts are having a positive effect. Confidence is returning to the traveling public, re-energizing the travel industry and refueling the economy.

Since we began our support of Operation Noble Eagle, we have flown sorties in and around New York City, Washington D.C., Camp David and successfully monitored countless aircraft. If we have been able to taxi to the runway, not once have we turned back any of our tasking. That adds up to a 100% mission completion rate. Even more impressive is the number of sorties and hours flown. Although I would like to share those numbers, as you might expect, they are classified. What isn't classified though, has been the endeavor of teamwork that I have observed throughout the base. There hasn't been any "I" in this "TEAM". You have shouldered the mission on the backside of the clock, in the middle of a Syracuse winter, seven days a week, complete with holidays and a Super bowl, always safely and with successful mission completion. Regardless of whatever construct the leadership decides on for homeland defense, we'll be here, as we have been for the last 55 years. I thank and salute all of you.



Disney World and Disneyland Salute the Armed Forces with Discounts

From January to the end of April, "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" will offer discounts at both the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and the Disneyland Resort in California. Active U.S. military personnel, with proper U.S. military identification, are eligible, including active members of the United States Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists. At Walt Disney World Resort, each active member of the U.S. military may obtain one complimentary seven-day ticket during the offer period (Jan. 1, 2002, to April 30, 2002). U.S. active military personnel are also eligible for discounts at select Disney resorts, starting with a \$49 per night rate (plus tax) at Disney's All-Star Resorts. At the Disneyland Resort, each active service member may purchase a 50 percent discount ticket to the Disneyland Resort theme parks for up to five friends and family members. For more on these and other discounts, call (407) 939-7424 (Disney World) or (714) 781-4565 (Disneyland).

Contact Center Available for Air Force Pay Problems

Airmen who are having pay problems they are unable to solve with local military personnel flights or finance offices can contact the Air Force Personnel Center. Customers can e-mail issues to the center at afpc.dpsfm@afpc.randolph.af.mil or call (800) 558-1404 or DSN 665-2949. The center's operating hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. After hours, a phone message can be left for an agent to follow up on the next day. For general information on pay benefits, visit http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=Active_Duty_Pay.htm.



GI Bill Benefits Increased

As of January 1, 2002, Montgomery GI Bill benefits for active duty service members as well as Reserves and National Guard members have increased. Active duty personnel can now receive up to \$800 a month for 36 months of full-time schooling, up from the previous limit of \$650 per month. Reservists and National Guard members can now receive up to \$272 a month for education payments. To learn more about the GI BILL and how it benefits you and for information on scholarships and schools that value military experience, visit the Military.com Education Channel at: <http://www.military.com/Careers/Education/1,112,00.html>



New Family Readiness & Support Services Center

By Major Kate O'Brien, 174th Community Manager

It is my great pleasure to announce the opening of our new Family Readiness and Support Services Center located in the Medical Squadron at the 174th Fighter Wing. Our newly hired temporary coordinator, Ms. Chris Muszynski, is manning this center. Chris is a former unit member with a great deal of experience and enthusiasm.

To reach the Family Readiness Center please call 454-6577 between 7:30 am – 5:00 pm during the week. Drill hours will vary and will be published monthly in the EnGarde. For concerns after normal duty hours, please contact our 24-hour number 1-800-982-3696 for support.

You are encouraged to stop by during the March UTA to learn about the many programs and resources available to our families and unit members. The office will be open 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday the March 9th.

The following programs and resources are available in the Family Readiness Center for your information and enjoyment.

- *Reduced Lift Tickets for Killington, Vermont for the en-*

tire 2002 season

- *Tricare information. (<http://www/tricare.osd.mil>)*
- *Mobilization and deployment guides and brochures*
- *Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve information*
- *Access to the "Military Deal of the Week" – through military.com, Gateway is offering military members a free Gateway PC Camera with the purchase of a Gateway 500 series PC. (<http://www.military.com/deals/index.htm>)*
- *Access to small programs benefiting small business (<http://www.sba.gov>)*
- *Helping Hands information-volunteers willing to assist during a crisis.*



Maj. Kate O'Brien

WWW.NYSYRA.ANG.AF.MIL

The Federal Children's Scholarship Fund, a 501 c (3) non-profit organization, has announced the release of its just-updated and expanded FREE edition of the 2002 Federal Children's Scholarship Handbook written specifically for the children of federal employees and members of our military community, this unique handbook gives college bound students, and those already in college, everything they need to know about the ins-and-outs of paying for their college education.

It shows you how to apply for Federal Student Aid, the Federal Work-Study Program and it gives you tips on filling-in your applications. To get YOUR FREE copy of the publication of the 2002 Federal Children's Scholarship Handbook sent directly to you, just go to the website:

<http://www.FEDscholarships.org>.

Mark Your Calendar...The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation of Central New York will hold its eighth annual run/fitness walk - known as the Race for the Cure - at Shoppingtown Mall on Saturday, 18 May 02. The race is open to all ages and athletic abilities and features a 1-mile run/walk and a 5k (3.1 mile) run/walk. The event gives participants a unique opportunity to support the fight against breast cancer in their local community. Contact Chief Master Sgt Radtke at laurie.radtke@nysyra.ang.af.mil or ext 168 if you'd like to be part of the 174th Fighter Wing team.

The 174th Security Forces Squadron and the Town of Cicero Police Department will be hosting a Junior Police Academy from July 8 - July 19 2002. This is a program that has been going on for the last 4 years with outstanding compliments from the participants and their parents.

Children from 13 to 19 years old are eligible to participate. It will be an all day event beginning around 0800 and ending around 1600. There is a fee of \$25.00. There are several field trips during the program. The program consists of actual Police Officers and members of the 174th Security Forces teaching the students about different law enforcement activities. The academy will be taking place at Hancock Field and we are planning to have it at the new small arms range building.

If anyone is interested in this program, please email Staff Sgt. Kyle Laitenberger for additional information regarding the program and where to receive your application(s).



SATURDAY

PROVIDED BY NAVY -
MENU UNKNOWN
AT THIS TIME

SUNDAY

PROVIDED BY NAVY -
MENU UNKNOWN
AT THIS TIME

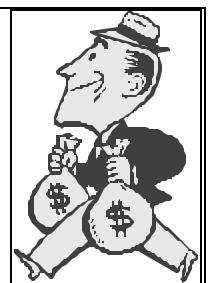
Meal Counters: Report at 1030
Saturday LGS Sunday SFS



March UTA

Pay Date: 18 March 02

Next UTA 6-7 April 2002



Air Force Remains Committed To AEF Rotation Cycles

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty, Air Force Print News

The combination of America's war on terrorism and steady state commitments worldwide has put increased strain on the Air Force's aerospace expeditionary forces. However, except for a few stressed career fields, officials at the Pentagon say normal rotations should be back soon.

"Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper is committed to the AEF construct -- a three-month deployment with a 12-month period at home," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler, director of operational plans, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"Given the war on terrorism, we had to go through a momentary blip in our rotation schedule," he said. "However, it looks like we're going to be on time in bringing home about 90 percent of the people who are currently deployed. We will rotate the forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch so that those who deployed first will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible."

There are some exceptions, Kohler said. While Air Force leaders are working hard to come up with a solution, a very small number of career fields may not be able to rotate as scheduled, he said.

"We know that there are some stressed career fields, such as security forces, combat communications and firefighters, that might have to stay a little longer," Kohler said. "But that's not to say that absolutely everyone in those career fields will be staying longer."

The deployment picture will start to come into focus by the middle of February when the Air Force begins scheduling for the rotation in March, he said.

"It might work out that only one or two unit type codes out of an entire civil engineering squadron might be the stressed career field," Kohler said. "We just don't know yet because we haven't gotten down to that level of fidelity."

The tremendous performance of the AEF in Operation Enduring Freedom is what caused the stress on certain career fields in the first place, Kohler said.

"The Air Force is sort of a victim of its own success," Kohler said. "The reason we are stressed is simple -- we do such

a great job. We went out and set up these bases and started generating sorties as soon as we were asked. I think the results speak for themselves in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. The (U.S.) Central Command commander in chief could not have done what he did without the superb work of all the airmen who went out and set it up."

To ease the problems the Air Force has in stressed career fields under current requirements, about 10 percent of the people will stay deployed a little longer -- some up to 135 days; others, up to 179 days, Kohler said. To cover the overlap, the second part of the solution will be to reach into the next AEF and bring replacement unit type codes forward about 45 days. Any reduction in current requirements may get the AEF cycle on track a little bit quicker, he said.

Another way to relieve some of the burden on our deployed people is to find additional airmen who normally do not deploy and place them in an AEF library.

"This crisis has caused us to look a little bit deeper," Kohler said. "We'd like to be able to find people who we haven't originally had in an AEF library who can deploy but normally don't deploy. For example, Air Education and Training Command has instructors who have special skill sets, and the AETC leadership has said that

there may be periods in the year when they can rotate. This is just one example and we're looking at all options."

Other fixes for stressed career fields are going to take some time and may only be resolved with increased manpower. Although the Air Force has asked for an end-strength increase of about 22,000 with 7,000 requested for this year, because of training requirements, this is more of a long-term solution, Kohler said.

"This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country," Jumper recently told commanders. "The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest possible extent."



Continued From Page 8, DOD News

DoD Tells Service members 'Don't Worry' About IRS Mistake

American Forces Press Service reports that as many as 60,000 service members who served in combat zones over the past several years recently got letters from the IRS saying they may lose their tax exclusion for that combat-zone duty. But DoD is telling the troops not to worry about it. The IRS letters set response deadlines on service members -- as soon as Jan. 25 in

some cases -- or their combat zone tax exemption will be denied. By the deadline, the letters say, service members must provide the IRS with the dates they entered and left the designated combat zone and exactly in which zone they served. The letters stated, "If you don't answer this letter, we will update your account to show no combat zone service." However, the Armed Forces Tax Council said the IRS never intended to take away anyone's eligibility for tax exemption. There will be no problems if service members have already replied to faulty letters, but those who haven't can disregard them. A second letter will be sent explaining the error and telling service members to ignore the first letter.

Alumni News

By Chief Master Sgt. (Ret) Jim Monroe

For some time now, a number of us have been tossing around the idea that this Association should have its own Web Site. In our discussions, there was never any disagreement about the usefulness of having such a site, but rather the question who could we get to set it up, keep it updated, and do it for little or no cost. If it weren't for Joe Gentile coming forward on his own, with a generous offer that we couldn't refuse, the whole idea of a web site would very likely have been relegated to the wastebasket. But now thanks to Joe, who has an extensive background in computers and is currently Chairman and majority shareholder of Gatesoft Corporation, our dream should soon be a reality. On 29 January, our Board of Directors unanimously approved the project, and formed a 3-member committee to assist Joe in developing the site. We are still in the planning stage, but if everything goes well you may be able to access our web site at 174thFWAlumni.org by the time you read this article. As soon as more information becomes available, we will see that you get it.

We have a new octogenarian among us. On 23 January John K. Terry celebrated his 80th birthday. To be sure he wouldn't overlook the occasion, his family, friends, and Alumni members all gathered together on the 17th (our regular monthly meeting night) to help him commemorate the event. It was a surprise party and in John's word "you sure know how to shock the Hell out of a guy." We had a good turn out that night. We'd like to think it was because of our meeting, but we'd only be kidding ourselves. That evening belonged to John and rightfully so. You could see it in the faces of those that were there that they were delighted that they could be with John that evening. But, I think more importantly it was John who enjoyed the evening the most. In his e-mail the next morning, John wanted everyone to know that he was thankful for the effort, the kindness and the gifts he received at this particular stage of his life. He also wanted everyone to know he would remember them all, and stated that the jolt was just starting to wear



off. Typical of John he signed off with "God Bless", "The Grumpy Ole Chief."

Taps

Bernadine LaFluer, died 1 Feb 02, at the age of 82. Bernie retired in 1981 after 25 years of service, as an Air Technician in the 108th AC&W Squadron, where she worked as an Administrative Specialist.

Lawrence R. Vollmer, died 1 May 2001 at the age of 69. Larry joined the unit in Jan 1951, was assigned to the 138th Fighter Squadrons, where he worked as a Weapons Specialist in the Armament Shop

New Members

Bob Hatfield, Vic Kashuba, Larry Keefe

More News & Trivia

* Many of you are probably not aware that the American Legion has recently launched a national effort to encourage parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and siblings to hang Blue Star Banners in their windows to honor loved ones that are serving in the military, fighting the war against terrorism. The tradition of hanging a banner in a window goes back many years, but probably most popular during the 2nd World War. If you have a family member that is currently in the service and you would like to so honor him or her, by displaying this banner, we suggest you first contact your nearest American Legion Post to see if they have any for sale. If not and you cannot find another source for the banner, let us know and we will see what we can do to get you one. Cost for the banners usually run around \$7.00.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2002, at 7:00 PM in the Base All Services Club. Refreshments will be served. Come on out, we'd love to see you.

DOD News Continued

Combat Zone Tax Break Announced

Service members in Afghanistan will receive significant tax breaks as a result of an executive order signed by the President. Effective September 19, 2001 (the day troops first started deploying for Operation Enduring Freedom), the combat zone tax exclusion applies to service in Afghanistan and the airspace above it. Service members directly supporting operations in Afghanistan from other locations are also eligible if they are receiving imminent danger pay or hostile fire pay. As a result of the order,

enlisted service members and warrant officers will pay no federal income tax on all basic pay and special pay. Officers will pay tax only on that portion of their pay that exceeds the highest enlisted pay plus the \$150 imminent danger pay, a figure currently set at \$5,043. Eligible service members also receive an automatic extension to file their taxes. Since the order is retroactive to September 19, 2001 eligible service members can expect a refund of taxes already paid and future withholding to stop. The executive order is on the Web at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/12/20011214-8.html>.



1-800-883-4484

Recruiting

**MSgt Noel Adamson, MSgt Heidi Diaz,
TSgt Richard Doctor, TSgt Brad Addison**

The Recruiting Office extends a sincere THANK YOU! to everyone who helped us in last years recruiting efforts!

FY 01 Gains were: 171 Enlisted and 34 Officers!

Remember....

**If you helped to enlist 3 people, you are eligible for the
New York State Recruiting Medal!**

Contact the Recruiting Office for details!

**Let's make FY 02 a very "Happy New Year" with more gains in
Critical AFSC's**

1C4X1 Tactical Air Command and Control
1C5X1 Aerospace Control and Warning Systems Apprentice
1N0X1 Intelligence Applications
2A0X1B Avionic Test Station
2A3X2 F 16 C/D Avionic Systems
2A3X3B Tactical Aircraft Maintenance
2A6X2 Aerospace Ground Equipment
2A6X3 Aircrew Egress Systems
2A6X6A Aerospace Propulsion
2A6X4 Aircraft Fuel Systems
2A6X6 Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems
2E2X1 Electronic Computer and Switching Systems
2F0X1 Fuels Management
2S0X1 Supply Management
2W0X1 Munitions Systems
2W1X1 Aircraft Armament Systems
3POX1 Security Forces

ENGARDE

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